S 8340-3 A

LABOR MARKET

Washington State
Employment Security
Vernon E. Stoner
Commissioner

Prepared by the
Labor Market And
Economic Analysis Branch
(206) 438-4800
Gary Bodeutsch
Director

In cooperation with the
Employment and Training
Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

April 1991

Highlights

Less Bang For The Buck

Washington's economy turned tepid in March. Unemployment failed to budge at a time when the rate ought to be dropping and job additions over the month held to a fraction of the normal seasonal uptick. In terms of economic activity, the combination made March look more like February, when weather acts as a major constraint. As it turned out, the weather turned typically mild after one of the most severe winters in recent memory. One would have suspected, given the circumstances, that the rebound coming into spring might have been stronger than usual. Not so. A slowing economy has now reached the point where even the normal swing of things is being affected. And the outlook is for more of the same in the months ahead.

Volume 15, Number 4

The state Forecast Council is projecting very flat second and third quarters before wage and salary employment begins rising again in the fourth quarter. The underlying assumption is that the national economy will turn up starting in the second quarter. In the interim, Washington's economy proceeds to track higher than the national average, but at progressively lower rates of growth.

One of the principal insulating factors to date has been the continued strength in construction. Housing, indeed, has slowed from the whirlwind buildup of 1988-89. But greater remodeling and commercial construction has more than made up the difference. Total employment in the industry expanded at double-digits and broke all-time records in each of the past two years. However, the latest month showed virtually no seasonal uptick at a time when payrolls should be mounting sharply. This marked the first hint that the growth in construction may be starting to wane.

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Washington's unemployment rate held steady at 6.9 percent in March - the first time since the 1975 recession that the rate did not fall over the month. Seasonal improvements typically boost the area economy beginning in early spring. The uptick this year, however, proved less than required to put a significant dent in the overall jobless rolls. Construction, services, and trade all mounted over the month. But the pace was decisively less than posted in recent years. The result pushed Washington's unemployment rate well above the prior year's 5.2 percent and closed in on the national average at 7.1 percent for March.

Jobless comparisons between the state and the nation turned favorable starting early last year. Washington's rate of unemployed, as a percent of the civilian workforce, dropped below that of the nation as whole for the first time since late 1968 beginning in March. At the seasonal peak in the third quarter, the difference between the state and the nation measured close to one-and-a-half percentage points.

Both the magnitude and the duration of the shift are unprecedented. Normally, even in the best of times, Washington's jobless rate tracks slightly above the national average owing to a high concentration of seasonal industries.

But the recession has largely skirted the Pacific Northwest. For the most part, whatever impacts have come out of the national recession have been relatively isolated, and offsetting growth has more than made up the difference. The state economy continues to hold its own against a national backdrop which has progressively weakened since the first quarter of 1990. While the pace has definitely slowed from the extraordinary buildup of the recent past, there is little doubt but that the state will show fairly normal seasonal expansion over the balance of this year.

Resident Civilian Labor Force
Employment and Unemployment in Washington State

	Mar 1991 *Preliminary*	Feb 1991 *Revised*	Mar 1990
Resident Civilian Labor Force	2,485,600	2,501,900	2,520,000
Employment	2,313,300	2,329,600	2,389,000
Unemployment	172,300	172,300	131,000
Unemployment Rate	6.9%	6.9%	5.2%
National Unemployment Rate	7.1%	7.2%	5.4%

Data in this table are not seasonally adjusted.
Source: Employment Security Department; Bureau of Labor Statistics

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

Washington's nonfarm wage and salary employment heightened by 13,300 workers in March. The gains were purely seasonal in nature led by typical expansion in trade (+3,800) and services (+3,700). Retailing was boosted significantly over the month at eating and drinking establishments (+2,400) but trimmed back through determined cost cutting at general merchandise (-400) and area food stores (-400). Staffing and hours have both been cut as a means of paring back overhead costs. Meanwhile, health services (+1,000) and local government payrolls (+2,300) proceeded to build in the latest month in response to continued strong population growth in the state's major metropolitan areas.

In contrast, the goods-producing sectors showed practically no change. Construction inched up by 1,200 at a time

when something on the order of 5,000 could reasonably be expected. Neither general building nor heavy construction pulled forward; the only significant strength rested among special trade contractors engaged in a variety of new and remodeling projects. Similarly, manufacturing held flat for the second consecutive month and fell in March on a seasonally adjusted basis.

More Here, Less There

Offsets in manufacturing have become the order of the day. Payrolls in aerospace and forest products - the state's two largest goods-producing sectors - held firm in March. But gains in food processing (+300) were countered over the month by losses in other transportation equipment (-200) and petroleum, coal, and plastics products (-100). The result netted the goods-producing sector little change. On balance, this follows very much in line with the same sort of pattern that has persisted in manufacturing since the beginning of the year after a runup of 33 percent from 1983 to 1990.

Noticeably absent currently is any significant movement in aerospace employment. The fact that payrolls in this highly visible industry have essentially stabilized over the past three months tends to drive home the month-to-month changes occurring elsewhere in the economy. For the most part, the give and take of seasonal factors predominantly captures the limelight at this time of year.

Beyond normal seasonal patterns, however, rests a mix of market strengths and weaknesses. Aerospace is running full tilt with sales in hand stretching out for years and a new generation aircraft moving rapidly toward production. Recent award of the coveted Advanced Tactical Fighter (ATF) contract to a team led by Lockheed, which includes Boeing, promises to make some headway in turning the military portion of the business around. Sales of machinery and instruments continue strong, particularly overseas. But high-ticket pleasure boat manufacturing is hurting. And lumber and wood products shows the dual impact of lower housing starts and emerging timber supply issues.

Lighter Hand In Services And Trade

Meanwhile, services and trade continue to pace the economy. Close to two-thirds of the state's total job growth over the past 12 months has come solely within these two sectors. Business services and health services, in particular, stand out. Also leading is growth at eating and drinking establishments. Higher population and per capita income within the state's largest major metropolitan areas serve as principal driving factors. In addition, phenomenal success in computer software has been another regional plus.

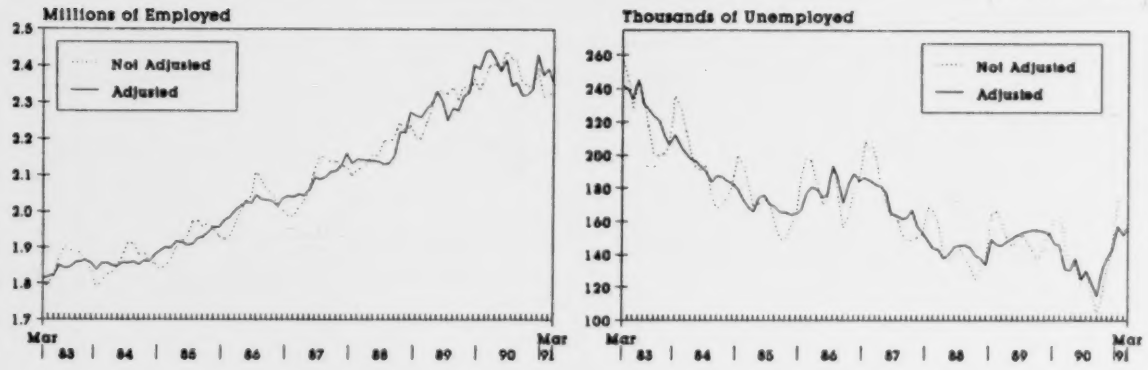
But the rate of job expansion, even in these seemingly strong sectors, has eased. Services and trade heightened in March by 3,700 and 3,800 workers, respectively. The same month a year ago saw job increases of better than twice that number. As a result, both sectors fell over the month when adjusted for normal seasonal variation. While the state economy shows none of the standard strains of recession, there can be no question but that the state's robust business cycle has finally passed its peak.

12-Month Pace Brought Back To The Norm

Over the year, Washington's nonfarm wage and salary employment level was up 61,600 workers in March. The rate of increase measured 2.9 percent - roughly equivalent to the state's long-run postwar average of 2.8 percent annually since 1947. Indeed, the pace remains respectable from a historical standpoint. And, moreover, contrasts sharply with a 0.7 percent *decline* nationally over the same time period. At issue is the fact that the pace has been halved over the past 12 months from a 6.0 percent spread a year ago.

The margin continues strong in construction (+6,000), trade (+8,700), and services (+30,500). Payroll additions have accelerated in local government (+13,800), primarily in response to greater demand for municipal services coming out of recent past growth in the metropolitan areas' economies. Manufacturing, on the other hand, has scaled back by 6,500 workers over the past year. Basically, all of the shortfall rests in transportation equipment (-5,200) and lumber and wood products (-1,700). The rest of manufacturing has held firm.

Washington State Total Resident Employment and Unemployment
March 1983 - March 1991



Source: Employment Security Department

AREA TRENDS

Atypical Metro Call

Washington's unemployment rate held atypically steady in March owing to a slack seasonal pattern in the metropolitan economies and scant movement in the logging and timber-dependent areas. Joblessness in four of the state's nine designated metropolitan areas (Bremerton, Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver) inched higher over the month at a time when seasonal factors alone would have dictated some improvement.

All urban areas averaged 6.3 percent in March, up from 6.2 percent in February and a low of 4.6 percent a year before. The range varied from a high of 14.1 percent in the Franklin County portion of the Tri-Cities and 13.9 percent in Yakima County - the state's two agriculturally-dependent MSAs - to 4.9 percent in greater urbanized King County. Understandably, much of the state's overall slowdown in job growth over the past year has centered in the larger metropolitan areas, which conversely generated most of the upward momentum through the late-1980s.

Better Bet On The Farm

Meanwhile, unemployment in the resource-based economies moved lower in March. Gains in agriculture pulled down joblessness in eastern Washington from 10.5 percent to 9.9 percent over the month. Particularly affected were Grant County (a drop from 14.4 percent to 12.4 percent), Adams County (from 16.5 percent to 11.1 percent), and Lincoln County (from 7.7 percent to 6.7 percent) with replanting of wheat in the aftermath of heavy winterkill.

On the other hand, practically no change occurred in the state's logging and lumbering areas. Unemployment held at 11.0 percent in March, off only two-tenths of a percentage point from February. Something on the order of a full two to three percentage point drop would normally be expected for the period. But slack demand coming out of the national recession has constrained Douglas Fir lumber production to 80 percent of last year's level through the first quarter. And logging proceeds under the guise of reduced timber harvests.

Unemployment Rates by Geographic Areas
State of Washington
(percent of the civilian labor force)

Areas	Mar 1991	Feb 1991	Mar 1990
Washington State Total	6.9	6.9	5.2
Metropolitan Areas	6.3	6.2	4.6
Log & Lumber Areas	11.0	11.2	8.7
All Western WA Areas	6.1	5.9	4.4
All Eastern WA Areas	9.9	10.5	8.2

Source: Employment Security Department

INDUSTRY NOTES

Boeing's Fighter Wins Big

A team consisting of Boeing/Lockheed/and General Dynamics has won the coveted Air Force contract to produce the nation's next generation of military jet fighters. The payoff for Boeing will be 3,000 jobs in the Seattle area by the mid-1990s and $30 billion in added defense revenue

over the next 15 to 20 years. Rollout would begin in 1996. Winning the award should prove a shot in the arm to Boeing's embattered defense business, which has suffered a 10 percent employment cut to 45,000 workers over the past year.

More Acreage Sought For The Owl

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed plans to curb logging on 11.6 million acres of timberland in the Pacific Northwest to protect habitat of the northern spotted owl. Washington's share is 3.3 million acres. Plans will not be finalized until year-end after due process for public comment and assessment. Not only federal lands but some portions of state and private land as well would be affected under the critical habitat proposal. Employment Security analysts had initially estimated the direct job loss to Washington from the less restrictive Jack Ward Thomas habitat protection plan to be anywhere between 6,900 and 7,800 lumber and wood product workers.

Cheney's Hit List Hits Washington

Whidbey Island Naval Air Station at Oak Harbor and Sand Point Naval Air Station in Seattle were both recommended for closure under Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney's latest proposal for cutting military spending. In all, 31 major domestic military bases and 12 minor installations would be shutdown and 28 others would be realigned under the plan. Net gain was estimated at $850 million.

Loss due to closure of Whidbey NAS is estimated at 31,000 people, including 8,700 military personnel and 1,850 civilians currently employed on the base, 1,000 military retirees living in the area, and 19,400 dependents. Island County's population would drop immediately by 45 percent with further outmigration over time as teachers and other public sector professionals exit. Total county personal income would be scaled back initially by a third.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

First Quarter Continues To Slide

The U.S. economy fell at a 2.6 percent annual rate in the first quarter with continued weakness in every sector except foreign trade. Gross National Product posted a second consecutive quarterly decline after a 1.6 percent drop in the fourth quarter, thereby officially marking the first recession since 1981-82. As a sign of deepening impact, after-tax corporate profits of U.S. corporations fell 5.6 percent in the first quarter - the biggest setback for earnings since the third quarter of 1989. Moreover, government is not set to stimulate the economy. Government spending at all levels shrunk at an annual rate of 3.2 percent in the first three months, reflecting last year's federal deficit reduction plan and constrained conditions of state and local government units throughout the nation.

But Some Signs Of Life Are Appearing

Industrial production and new home building both fell in March. But the slide was less severe than previous months, giving a hint that the worst may be over. Output of the nation's factories, mines, and utilities fell 0.3 percent in March - the smallest of any of the five previous monthly declines. Similarly, the Commerce Department reported that housing starts fell at a 9.3 percent annual rate after a 17.2 percent increase in February. Analysts generally believe that January marked the bottom of the year-long slide in national housing construction. Building permits for future construction turned up at a 2.4 percent rate in March and stood significantly above the January low.

Future Gauge Looking Better

Meanwhile, the government's index of leading indicators edged higher in March for the second consecutive month. This precursor of future economic trend rose a modest 0.5 percent in the latest month, largely on a burst of consumer optimism. Consumer expectations soared as a result of the end of the Persian Gulf war, and money supply increased due to the further easing of monetary policy. Holding back the advance were lower orders for manufactured goods and

higher unemployment benefit claims. The indicators generally point to a modest recovery beginning in the third quarter.

While Prices Remain Under Wraps

Consumer prices fell in March for the first time in five years. The Labor Department's consumer price index dropped 0.1 percent over the month, largely because of a 2.6 percent decline in energy prices. Excluding the volatile food and energy components, prices at the consumer level inched up 0.1 percent from February - the smallest increase since December 1982. Modest movement on the price front has lessened pressure on the Federal Reserve to shift to a more restrictive monetary stance.

Consumer Price Index
(All Items, Urban Consumers, 1982-1984 = 100)

	Indexes			% Change From	
U.S. City Average	Mar 91	Feb 91	Mar 90	Feb 91	Mar 90
	135.0	134.8	128.7	-0.1%	4.9%
Seattle†	Jul-Dec 1990	Jul-Dec 1989		Jul-Dec 1990	
	129.4	119.6		8.2%	

†The index for Seattle reflects prices in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Prepared by Dennis Fusco, Chief Economist

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers in Washington State, Place of Work[1]

In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Mar 1991 (Prel)	Feb 1991 (Rev)	Mar 1990 (Rev)	Feb 1990 (Rev)	Numeric Change: Feb 1991 to Mar 1991	Numeric Change: Mar 1990 to Mar 1991
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	2,169.7	2,156.4	2,108.1	2,083.3	13.3	61.6
Manufacturing	360.4	359.8	366.9	364.7	0.6	-6.5
Durable Goods	254.6	254.5	262.3	261.4	0.1	-7.7
Lumber & Wood Products	37.7	37.7	39.4	39.2	0.0	-1.7
Logging	9.2	9.3	8.7	8.9	-0.1	0.5
Sawmills & Plywood	24.8	24.7	27.1	26.9	0.1	-2.3
Furniture & Fixtures	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	0.0	-0.1
Stone, Clay, & Glass	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.0	0.2	0.1
Primary Metals	12.5	12.5	13.0	13.0	0.0	-0.5
Aluminum	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8	0.0	0.1
Fabricated Metals	12.2	12.2	11.9	11.8	0.0	0.3
Industrial Machinery & Equipment	20.1	20.1	20.2	20.2	0.0	-0.1
Computer & Office Equipment	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	0.0	0.2
Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment	11.7	11.7	11.4	11.3	0.0	0.3
Transportation Equipment	128.6	128.8	133.8	133.8	-0.2	-5.2
Aircraft & Parts	116.0	116.0	117.8	118.1	0.0	-1.8
Instruments & Related	13.7	13.6	15.1	15.1	0.1	-1.4
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.7	6.7	6.1	6.0	0.0	0.6
Nondurable Goods	105.8	105.3	104.6	103.3	0.5	1.2
Food & Kindred Products	35.0	34.7	34.9	34.5	0.3	0.1
Preserved Fruits & Vegetables	10.4	10.4	11.2	11.1	0.0	-0.8
Textiles, Apparel, & Leather	8.0	7.9	7.6	7.4	0.1	0.4
Paper & Allied Products	17.8	17.8	18.1	17.9	0.0	-0.3
Printing & Publishing	22.6	22.5	22.4	22.1	0.1	0.2
Chemicals & Allied Products	13.6	13.5	13.0	13.0	0.1	0.6
Petroleum, Coal, Plastics	8.8	8.9	8.6	8.4	-0.1	0.2
Mining & Quarrying	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	0.0	-0.1
Construction	114.9	113.7	108.9	102.1	1.2	6.0
General Building Contractors	33.6	33.6	32.9	31.1	0.0	0.7
Heavy Construction, ex. Buildings	14.6	14.4	14.2	12.9	0.2	0.4
Special Trade Contractors	66.7	65.7	61.8	58.1	1.0	4.9
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	114.5	114.1	110.7	109.9	0.4	3.8
Transportation	79.4	79.2	76.1	74.8	0.2	3.3
Trucking & Warehousing	32.6	32.5	29.9	29.3	0.1	2.7
Water Transportation	9.4	9.5	9.0	8.7	-0.1	0.4
Transportation by Air	15.3	15.3	15.5	15.3	0.0	-0.2
Communications	25.2	25.1	25.2	25.8	0.1	0.0
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	9.9	9.8	9.4	9.3	0.1	0.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	514.5	510.7	505.8	498.2	3.8	8.7
Wholesale Trade	128.9	127.8	125.7	123.8	1.1	3.2
Retail Trade	385.6	382.9	380.1	374.4	2.7	5.5
General Merchandise	35.8	36.2	38.1	38.5	-0.4	-2.3
Food Stores	64.3	64.7	61.8	60.8	-0.4	2.5
Eating & Drinking	143.7	141.3	137.9	135.0	2.4	5.8
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	117.8	117.3	115.3	114.5	0.5	2.5
Finance	51.0	50.9	51.5	51.3	0.1	-0.5
Services	529.4	525.7	498.9	490.0	3.7	30.5
Hotels & Lodging	25.4	25.1	23.6	23.0	0.3	1.8
Personal Services	22.4	22.1	22.1	21.5	0.3	0.3
Business Services	87.3	86.7	81.5	79.5	0.6	5.8
Health Services	154.2	153.2	145.2	144.0	1.0	9.0
Educational Services	25.2	24.8	24.0	23.6	0.4	1.2
Social Services	36.4	36.0	33.1	32.6	0.4	3.3
Engineering & Management Services	47.8	47.8	45.2	44.5	0.0	2.6
Government	414.7	411.6	398.0	400.4	3.1	16.7
Federal	71.1	70.9	73.8	72.8	0.2	-2.7
State	122.4	121.8	116.8	116.1	0.6	5.6
State Education	64.8	64.4	62.9	62.3	0.4	1.9
Local	221.2	218.9	207.4	211.5	2.3	13.8
Local Education	121.8	120.3	113.6	113.1	1.5	8.2
Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

[1] Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis

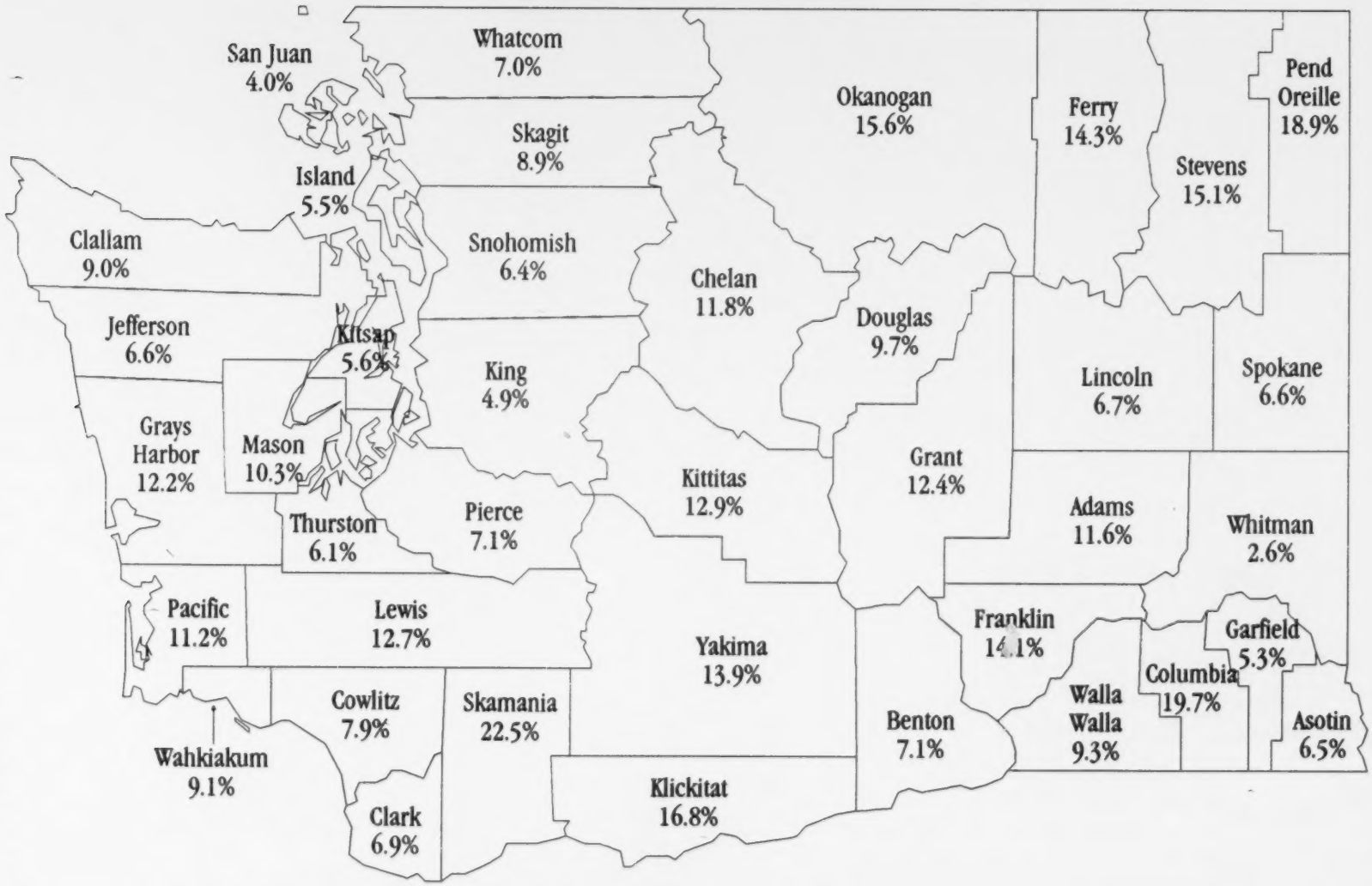
Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas

Date: 4/30/91
Benchmark: 1990

	March 1991 Preliminary†				February 1991 Revised†				March 1990 Revised†			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total	2,485,600	2,313,300	172,300	6.9	2,501,900	2,329,600	172,300	6.9	2,520,000	2,389,000	131,000	5.2
Bellingham MSA	68,700	63,900	4,800	7.0	69,300	64,200	5,100	7.4	67,000	63,400	3,600	5.4
Bremerton MSA	83,500	78,800	4,700	5.6	83,400	79,000	4,400	5.3	84,400	80,900	3,500	4.1
Olympia MSA	84,900	79,700	5,200	6.1	85,000	79,800	5,200	6.1	84,700	80,500	4,200	5.0
Seattle PMSA	1,117,600	1,059,700	57,900	5.2	1,133,400	1,078,700	54,700	4.8	1,143,900	1,103,300	40,600	3.5
King County‡	880,000	837,200	42,800	4.9	892,800	852,300	40,500	4.5	902,600	871,700	30,900	3.4
Snohomish County‡	237,500	222,400	15,100	6.4	240,600	226,400	14,200	5.9	241,300	231,600	9,700	4.0
Spokane MSA	170,200	158,900	11,300	6.6	173,500	160,700	12,800	7.4	173,600	163,600	10,000	5.8
Tacoma PMSA	250,400	232,700	17,700	7.1	251,400	233,900	17,500	7.0	258,300	245,700	12,600	4.9
Tri-Cities MSA	73,500	67,100	6,400	8.7	73,000	65,900	7,100	9.7	73,300	68,000	5,300	7.2
Benton County‡	56,500	52,500	4,000	7.1	55,800	51,600	4,200	7.5	56,500	53,300	3,200	5.7
Franklin County‡	17,000	14,600	2,400	14.1	17,200	14,300	2,900	16.9	16,800	14,800	2,000	11.9
Vancouver PMSA	130,200	121,200	9,000	6.9	129,300	120,900	8,400	6.5	127,300	120,900	6,400	5.0
Yakima MSA	97,200	83,700	13,500	13.9	95,800	81,800	14,000	14.6	98,100	86,200	11,900	12.1
Adams	7,440	6,580	860	11.6	7,590	6,340	1,250	16.5	6,820	6,020	800	11.7
Asotin	9,590	8,970	620	6.5	9,610	8,930	680	7.1	9,270	8,840	430	4.6
Clallam	24,030	21,860	2,170	9.0	23,710	21,450	2,260	9.5	24,880	23,070	1,810	7.3
Columbia	1,470	1,180	290	19.7	1,450	1,200	250	17.2	1,750	1,500	250	14.3
Cowlitz	38,710	35,640	3,070	7.9	38,950	35,850	3,100	8.0	38,940	36,120	2,820	7.2
Ferry	3,280	2,810	470	14.3	3,310	2,860	450	13.6	3,280	2,830	450	13.7
Garfield	950	900	50	5.3	960	900	60	6.3	1,020	980	40	3.9
Grant	26,450	23,170	3,280	12.4	26,020	22,270	3,750	14.4	25,840	23,490	2,350	9.1
Grays Harbor	27,460	24,100	3,360	12.2	27,820	24,510	3,310	11.9	26,700	24,150	2,550	9.6
Island	21,580	20,390	1,190	5.5	21,570	20,390	1,180	5.5	21,730	20,860	870	4.0
Jefferson	8,750	8,170	580	6.6	8,530	7,890	640	7.5	9,080	8,630	450	5.0
Kittitas	13,050	11,370	1,680	12.9	13,020	11,420	1,600	12.3	13,490	12,370	1,120	8.3
Klickitat	7,540	6,270	1,270	16.8	7,550	6,130	1,420	18.8	7,880	6,630	1,250	15.9
Lewis	24,430	21,320	3,110	12.7	24,420	21,470	2,950	12.1	25,630	23,530	2,100	8.2
Lincoln	4,150	3,870	280	6.7	4,160	3,840	320	7.7	4,360	4,160	200	4.6
Mason	15,190	13,620	1,570	10.3	14,790	13,380	1,410	9.5	14,250	13,310	940	6.6
Okanogan	17,570	14,830	2,740	15.6	17,530	14,810	2,720	15.5	16,960	14,820	2,140	12.6
Pacific	7,420	6,590	830	11.2	7,310	6,440	870	11.9	7,740	7,070	670	8.7
Pend Oreille	3,330	2,700	630	18.9	3,350	2,750	600	17.9	3,490	2,970	520	14.9
San Juan	5,700	5,470	230	4.0	5,460	5,200	260	4.8	5,530	5,340	190	3.4
Skagit	41,260	37,600	3,660	8.9	40,230	36,210	4,020	10.0	39,020	36,150	2,870	7.4
Skamania	2,180	1,690	490	22.5	2,300	1,690	610	26.5	2,250	1,800	450	20.0
Stevens	11,650	9,890	1,760	15.1	11,590	9,870	1,720	14.8	12,180	10,710	1,470	12.1
Wahkiakum	1,210	1,100	110	9.1	1,180	1,070	110	9.3	1,330	1,220	110	8.3
Walla Walla	23,550	21,350	2,200	9.3	23,770	21,480	2,290	9.6	23,870	21,980	1,890	7.9
Wenatchee Labor Area	42,640	37,910	4,730	11.1	42,660	37,900	4,760	11.2	42,330	38,580	3,750	8.9
Chelan County‡	28,480	25,130	3,350	11.8	28,470	25,120	3,350	11.8	28,270	25,580	2,690	9.5
Douglas County‡	14,160	12,780	1,380	9.7	14,190	12,770	1,420	10.0	14,060	13,000	1,060	7.5
Whitman	18,920	18,430	490	2.6	19,040	18,510	530	2.8	19,820	19,440	380	1.9

†Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. ‡Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.
Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.

March 1991 Unemployment Rates
State of Washington = 6.9%



Estimated Average Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing and of Nonsupervisory Workers in Nonmanufacturing Activities, Washington State

	Preliminary March Production Workers & Nonsupervisory Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Mar 91	Feb 91	Mar 90	Mar 91	Feb 91	Mar 90	Mar 91	Feb 91	Mar 90
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES[1]	210,056	$533.60	$526.78	$513.48	40.0	39.4	40.4	$13.34	$13.37	$12.71
SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Lumber and Wood Products	31,243	$459.02	$443.08	$433.22	38.9	38.0	39.6	$11.80	$11.66	$10.94
Primary Metal Industries	9,883	$601.87	$588.51	$568.96	43.3	42.4	43.3	$13.90	$13.88	$13.14
Fabricated Metal Products	9,800	$527.67	$521.02	$492.87	41.0	40.8	40.3	$12.87	$12.77	$12.23
Machinery	19,993	$432.30	$431.51	$428.79	39.3	39.3	40.3	$11.00	$10.98	$10.64
Food and Kindred Products	24,052	$382.62	$368.93	$372.74	38.3	36.6	37.2	$9.99	$10.08	$10.02
Chemical and Allied Products	4,735	$710.44	$664.99	$642.45	43.8	42.6	42.1	$16.22	$15.61	$15.26
Transportation Equipment	56,577	$688.84	$685.17	$648.55	41.9	41.3	42.5	$16.44	$16.59	$15.26
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	85,010	$659.09	$638.57	$623.61	36.8	36.2	36.9	$17.91	$17.64	$16.90
Wholesale and Retail Trade (Includes eating and drinking establishments)	455,809	$286.12	$285.19	$278.[illegible]6	30.7	30.6	30.6	$9.32	$9.32	$9.10

[1]Average hourly earnings for all manufacturing production workers reported in this table do not exactly reflect the official US Bureau of Labor Statistics definition of "wages." While these data still constitute a valid economic indicator series, they should not be used at this time for the negotiation of contracts whose monetary provisions may depend upon official US Bureau of Labor Statistics hourly earning data.

Washington State
Employment Security
Labor Market and
Economic Analysis Branch
212 Maple Park
Mail Stop KG-11
Olympia, WA 98504-5311

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty For Private Use $300

WLM

☐ If you no longer wish to receive this publication, please check here and return this cover to the above address.

If your address has changed, please indicate new address below and return this cover to the above address.

_____

_____

_____

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB-449

CONGRESSIONAL INFO SERVICE
SRI
4520 EAST WEST HIWY
BETHESDA MD 20814